

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/782,042

Examiner

HOAN C. NGUYEN

Applicant(s)

YAMAGUCHI, AKIRA

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/20/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-5,9,10,26,32 and 33.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Barner on September 29, 2004.

Mr. Barner authorizes to amend the claims 1, 5, 6, 9, 11 and 32 as following:

"a light shield layer formed on said another surface of said lens substrate reverse to said plurality of microlenses so as to cover ~~other~~ an area other than said plurality of light entrance areas; and

a diffuse reflecting layer formed on a surface of said light shield layer at a light entrance side ~~than~~ of said light shield layer so as to cover ~~other~~ the area other than said plurality of light entrance areas,"

Mr. Barner also authorizes to amend the claim 26 as following:

a light shield layer formed on said another surface of the lens substrate reverse to said plurality of microlenses, and covering ~~other~~ an area other than said plurality of light exit areas; and

an anti-reflective layer formed on a surface of said light shield layer other than a surface formed on said light shield layer and covering the ~~other~~ area other than said plurality of light exit areas

Furthermore, applicant's election without traverse of Species A and Group a (claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 26 and 32-33) in the reply filed on 9/20/04 is acknowledged. Therefore, Claims 2, 6-8, 11-25, 27-31 and 34-35 are cancelled. Therefore, claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 26 and 32-33 are pending in the elected species.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-5, 9, 10, 26 and 32-33 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1, 5, 9 and 32 are allowed since there is no prior art teaches a collimating plate comprising

- a light shield layer formed on said another surface of said lens substrate reverse to said plurality of microlenses so as to cover an area other than said plurality of light entrance areas; and
- a diffuse reflecting layer formed on a surface of said light shield layer at a light entrance side of said light shield layer so as to cover the area other than said plurality of light entrance areas.

Claims 3-4, 10, 26 and 33 are allowed since they depend on the allowed claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 2871

Conclusion

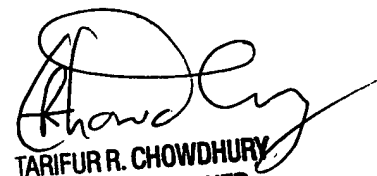
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HOAN C. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-2296. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY:8:00AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim H Robert can be reached on (571) 272-2293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HOAN C. NGUYEN
Examiner
Art Unit 2871

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TARIFUR R. CHOWDHURY
PRIMARY EXAMINER